

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1817

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a renewable energy transition grant program and to establish a National Employment Corps, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a renewable energy transition grant program and to establish a National Employment Corps, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Workers  
5 for a Clean Future Act”.

**6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8           (1) The fossil fuel and fossil fuel-dependent in-  
9 dustries have been major drivers of employment and

1 economic growth in regions throughout California.  
2 Yet, despite the success of these industries, many  
3 local residents are unemployed or live in poverty. In  
4 addition, nearby communities often suffer from pol-  
5 lution, poor air and water quality, and other health  
6 hazards. The goal of community transition grants is  
7 to develop a vision for a future economy based on  
8 equity, sustainability, and shared prosperity. A re-  
9 gional approach requires bringing together a diverse  
10 set of stakeholders that represent the whole commu-  
11 nity. This coalition must be capable of developing  
12 and implementing strategies to support workers and  
13 communities that will be affected by the transition  
14 away from fossil fuels. To be effective, coalitions  
15 should work closely with high road employers and in-  
16 dustry leaders to identify in-demand skills and work-  
17 force strategies that promote emerging and expand-  
18 ing sectors of the regional economy.

19 (2) These strategies should provide pathways  
20 for impacted workers to transition to other sustain-  
21 able jobs and careers. They should also include the  
22 frontline communities who have historically been ex-  
23 cluded from the economic benefits of the fossil fuel  
24 industry, while bearing the greatest costs of pollu-  
25 tion and ecological damage.

8                             (4) In addition, coalitions should be diverse and  
9                             represent a wide range of regional interests and  
10                            stakeholders, including organizations representing  
11                            labor, environmental justice, industry, economic de-  
12                            velopment, local tribal and municipal government,  
13                            and educational institutions.

19 SEC. 3. RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION GRANT PRO-  
20 GRAM.

21       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in con-  
22 sultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish a  
23 grant program for local governments for the purpose of  
24 developing a plan to transition workers from employment

1 in fossil fuel industries to employment in sustainable in-  
2 dustries.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Labor may  
4 award grants under subsection (a) to a local or Tribal gov-  
5 ernment that—

6 (1) establishes industry or sector partnerships  
7 (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation  
8 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102));

9 (2) is in a locality that the Secretary of Energy  
10 determines to have a percentage of traditional en-  
11 ergy sector jobs that is average or above average rel-  
12 ative to the United States; and

13 (3) certifies that such local or Tribal govern-  
14 ment will develop the transition plan described in  
15 subsection (a) in consultation with relevant State  
16 and other experts, including experts in energy labor,  
17 green economy policies, and energy policy, and with  
18 relevant State officials, if applicable.

19 (c) DETERMINATION OF PERCENTAGE OF TRADI-  
20 TIONAL ENERGY SECTOR JOBS.—In making the deter-  
21 mination under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary of Labor  
22 shall take into consideration information from the report  
23 entitled “U.S. Energy and Employment Report” issued by  
24 the Secretary in January, 2017.

1       (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds under subsection (a)  
2 may be used for the following purposes:

3           (1) To develop a transition plan described in  
4 subsection (a).

5           (2) To support an existing apprenticeship pro-  
6 gram for apprenticeable occupation or, if in a non-  
7 traditional industry, to develop an apprenticeship  
8 program.

9           (3) To train individuals who are new to the  
10 workforce for jobs in sustainable industries, includ-  
11 ing but not limited to, manufacturing, autonomous  
12 vehicles, electric vehicles, renewable energy,  
13 CERCLA remediation, and may include a partner-  
14 ship or agreements with employers to provide jobs  
15 for trainees.

16       (e) TRANSITION PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—A transi-  
17 tion plan funded under subsection (a)—

18           (1) shall include assistance for accessing all ex-  
19 isting applicable Federal and State aid for displaced  
20 workers, including unemployment insurance, job  
21 transition training, and community services for the  
22 affected community as well as trade adjustment as-  
23 sistance and other programs, if applicable; and

24           (2) may also include assistance to supplement  
25 existing Federal and State aid, including funds for

1       bridges to retirement for older workers, wage insur-  
2       ance for workers who find employment in lower wage  
3       jobs, and funding for significant career change train-  
4       ing for workers who wish to change careers, includ-  
5       ing case management and career path counseling.

6       (f) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be ap-  
7       propriated such sums as necessary to carry out this sec-  
8       tion.

9 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT CORPS.**

10      (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
11     the Department of Labor a National Employment Corps.

12      (b) JOB GUARANTEE GRANTS.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—If local government or Tribe  
14     described in section 3(b) executes a plan under sec-  
15     tion 2 in good faith, but all workers described in sec-  
16     tion 3(a) are not successfully transitioned, the Sec-  
17     retary of Labor, acting through the National Em-  
18     ployment Corps, shall establish a program (herein-  
19     after referred to as the “program”) to provide  
20     grants to local and Tribal governments to provide di-  
21     rect employment projects for the purpose of guaran-  
22     teeing a job and job training to any eligible worker  
23     not successfully transitioned under such plan.

1                         (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The grants under para-  
2                         graph (1) shall cover wage, benefits, and material  
3                         expenses of eligible workers.

4                         (3) ELIGIBLE WORKER.—In this section, the  
5                         term “eligible worker” means any individual who  
6                         loses a job or reasonably anticipates losing a job due  
7                         to a transition from traditional energy sources to  
8                         sustainable energy sources.

9                         (c) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL EFFORTS.—The  
10          Corps shall work with Federal agencies to identify areas  
11          of needed investment in the United States economy, in-  
12          cluding infrastructure, energy efficiency, retrofitting, elder  
13          care, child care, job training, education, and health serv-  
14          ices.

15                         (d) FEDERAL COMPONENT.—

16                         (1) IN GENERAL.—If projects funded under the  
17          program under subsection (b) are inadequate to  
18          maintain full employment in the locality or Tribe,  
19          the Secretary shall intervene in the locality or Tribe  
20          to provide adequate employment opportunities to  
21          guarantee employment to workers described in such  
22          subsection.

23                         (2) ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—The Corps shall  
24          also offer the following services to eligible workers:

25                             (A) Supportive services.

1 (B) Wrap-around services, including:

## 2 (i) Transportation.

3 (ii) Childcare.

4 (iii) Job preparation services.

## 5 (iv) Counseling.

6 (C) Adult education and literacy activities.

(3) WEBSITE AND DATABASE.—To assist with an individual's move from the job guarantee to other employment opportunities under a National Employment Corps, the Secretary shall establish a website and database listing individuals employed under the program as available for, and seeking, employment. Individuals shall be allowed up to one day (8 hours) per employed month to seek alternative employment and for professional development.

(e) COORDINATION OF LOCAL EFFORTS.—Any local or Tribal government that receives a grant shall develop employment proposals in coordination with community leaders, labor organizations, and local residents to ensure the proposals will serve the needs of the constituents and available pool of labor. The employment proposals may not be used to employ individuals who will replace or speed

- 1 the displacement of existing employees or individuals who
- 2 would otherwise perform similar work.

3 (f) EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS.—

4 (1) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS.— Participants shall be included in an established bargaining unit and covered by any applicable collective bargaining agreement upon the establishment of such agreement.

9 (2) WAGES UNDER THE PROGRAM.—Wage variation shall be built into the program, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, to account for workers' previous experience, education, and region of residence, as well as the prospect of promotion within the National Employment Corps.

15 (3) WEBSITE.—To manage projects past, present, and future, the National Employment Corps shall create a website where all projects will be listed.

19 (4) MINIMUM WAGE.—Any individual employed using funds under this section shall be paid wages at a rate that is not less than \$15.00 per hour and that are comparable wages in the region, plus benefits, and indexed for inflation.

24 (g) APPRENTICESHIP DEFINED.—In this section, the  
25 term “apprenticeship” means an apprenticeship program

1 registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly  
2 known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”) (50 Stat.  
3 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), including any  
4 requirement, standard, or rule promulgated under such  
5 Act, as such requirement, standard, or rule was in effect  
6 on December 30, 2019.

